

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /089 W

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P R 201730Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9315

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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NAIROBI FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PFOR ML UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA DISPUTE: LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION

REF: A. LOME 1383 B. CONAKRY 915 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY

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LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION (LMC) MEETING ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY

HERE JUNE 18. FINAL COMMUNIQUE REVEALS "NEUTRAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE" BEING CONSTITUTED TO DETERMINE LOCATION OF CERTAIN VILLAGES, RECONNOITRE FRONTIER AND MAKE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS TO LMC. TOGOLESE OFFICIALS ADMIT PRIVATELY THAT FINDING SOLUTION IS DIFFICULT AND THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA IS DISAPPOINTED IN RESULTS OF LMC MEETING. END SUMMARY

1. LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION (LMC) MEETING ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY JUNE 18. "TOGO-PRESSE" JUNE 19 DESCRIBED RESULTS WITH UNUSUAL FRANKNESS: "MALIAN-VOLTAN DISPUTE, WITHOUT HAVING FOUND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION, IS ON WAY TO SETTLEMENT." PRESS REPORTS "MARATHON SESSION OF NEARLY TEN HOURS (JUNE 18). . . MADE GREAT STRIDES TOWARD RAPPROCHEMENT OF PEOPLES OF MALI AND UPPER VOLTA."

2. FINAL COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

-- "UPPER VOLTA AND MALI COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PUT AN END TO THEIR DISPUTE ON BASIS RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEDIATION COMMISSION.

-- "TWO PARTIES ACCEPT CONSTITUTION BY PRESIDENT OF MEDIATION COMMISSION OF NEUTRAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THREE CARTOGRAPHERS, ONE ETHNOLOGIST, ONE JURIST, ONE OFFICER, A COMMITTEE WHOSE MISSION WILL BE TO DETERMINE LOCATION OF VILLAGES OF DIONOUGA, DIOLOUNA, OUKOULOU, AGOULOUNOU AND KOUBO; TO RECONNOITRE FRONTIER AND MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO COMMISSION.

--"PARTIES ARE COMMITTED TO AVOID ALL ACTIONS TENDING TO CREATE OR MAINTAIN ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION AND TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES CAPABLE OF ESTABLISHING CLIMATE OF DETENTE; INCLUDING FACILITATION OF FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND GOODS.

--"MALI AGREES TO FREE TWO VOLTAN PRISONERS HELD IN MALI AND TO RESTORE MATERIEL BELONGING TO UPPER VOLTA WHICH IT HAS HELD SINCE EVENTS OF DECEMBER 1974."

3. GOT SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT AMEGA, TOGO'S REPRESENTATIVE ON JURIDICAL SUB-COMMISSION, CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR AT AIRPORT YESTERDAY THAT SOLUTION OF DISPUTE IS "VERY DIFFICULT."

4. EMBOFF INFORMED BY TOGOLESE FONMIN OFFICIAL THAT "OFFICIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEW (OF TOGO AND APPARENTLY REST OF LMC) IS THAT UPPER VOLTA IS RIGHT AND MALI IS WRONG. TROUBLE IS THAT MALIANS ARE IN VERY AGGRESSIVE MOOD RIGHT NOW, THEY ARE WELL ARMED AND MUCH STRONGER THAN VOLTANS. COMMISSION FELT IT COULD NOT PRESENT THIS VERDICT TO MALI JUST NOW, WITHOUT RISK OF AGGRESSIVE REACTION BY MALI. NEUTRAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WILL STUDY TOPOGRAPHY, MAPS AND BORDER AND THEREAFTER REPORT TO LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION WHICH WILL REPORT AGAIN TO LMC." EMBOFF OBSERVED LEGAL SUBCOMMISSION

HAD PRESUMABLY ALREADY DONE ALL THIS, TO WHICH SOURCE REPLIED, "YES, AND NEUTRAL COMMITTEE WILL REACH SAME CONCLUSIONS." SOURCE INDICATED CREATION OF NEUTRAL COMMITTEE IS AT LEAVE PARTLY FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR MALIANS TO ALLOW THEM TO ACCEPT ADVERSE VERDICT; BUT EYADEMA IS "DISAPPOINTED IN RESULTS."

5. DEPARTING PRESIDENTS AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPANTS ALL STRESSED POSITIVE RESULTS OF MEETING, INSISTING IT WAS SUCCESS AND EXPRESSING OPTIMISM ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. SENGHOR ALONE SEEMS TO HAVE STATED THE OBVIOUS: "IF RESULTS WHICH WE ATTAINED UNDER (EYADEMA'S) AEGIS DO NOT YET COME FULLY UP TO OUR EXPECTATIONS, THEY CONSTITUTE NO LESS THAN APPRECIABLE STEP ON WAY TO SETTLING THIS BURNING PROBLEM." PRESIDENT TRAORE AND PM BEAVOGUI LEFT LOME TOGETHER IN TRAORE'S PLANE, INDICATING TRAORE MAY SPEND TIME IN CONAKRY ENROUTE BAMAKO (REFTEL B).

6. COMMENT: INCONCLUSIVE END OF THIS SUMMIT MEETING MUST INDEED BE FRUSTRATING TO EYADEMA, WHO PLACES GREAT STRESS ON HIS ROLE AS PEACEMAKER WITHIN TOGO AND WHO HAS SOUGHT TO PROJECT THIS ROLE AS REGIONAL CONFLICT MEDIATOR ONTO LARGER SCREEN.
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